



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

Sustainability Committee

Margarita Kruff, Chair– Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Mike Gibaldi, Vice-Chair – Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola
Jason Koslowe, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Stephen Meiner
Sara Kott, Member – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson
Santiago R. Tarditi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian
Daniel Robles, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Jeremy Waks, Member – Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

DATE: October 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for October 28, 2021 at 3:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Margarita Kruff, Sara Kott, Mike Gibaldi, and Jeremy Waks.

Absent: Jason Koslowe, Santiago Tarditi, and Daniel Robles.

City Staff: Omar Leon, Urban Forester; Yanira Pineda, Sustainability Manager; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Review of the June 24, 2021 Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the September 30, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Sara Kott.
- b. **Ex-Officio Member of G.O. Bond Oversight Committee** – Deferred to the November meeting.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

i. Waterway Contractor – Yanira Pineda, Sustainability Manager, presented the item. She stated that the waterway contractor is still providing maintenance three times per week, unless there's an emergency. Approximately 6,400 pounds of debris are collected monthly. Mike Gibaldi, member, asked about the possibility of installing storm grates. Ms. Pineda explained that previous pilot programs were not successful because they got clogged with leaves and caused flooding.

ii. Aspen Institute Event – Mayor Dan Gelber presented an overview of the Aspen Ideas: Climate event which will provide a democratized solutions platform for political officials, local and world-wide organizations, business owners, and the public. Mr. Gibaldi offered thanks and suggested showcasing the "Plastic Free MB" program throughout the event. Mayor Gelber explained that the Aspen Institute is already committed to hosting a plastic free event.

b. Old Business

i. Monument Island Funding – Ms. Pineda presented the item. She stated that the item was last heard at the October 13th Commission meeting and referred to the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee meeting in November. Ms. Pineda explained that funding is open for other sustainability and resiliency projects contingent on the outcome of the item. Jeremy Waks, member, asked who has authority to close Monument Island. Ms. Pineda explained that it in the

past it was an item at Commission meeting and referred to a committee for approval, but no further formal action was taken. The Committee discussed how funds could be increased to accommodate project implementation. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee recommends that the \$25,000 allocated for the enhancement and conservation of Flagler Monument Island be allocated to projects that will stop motorized vessels from beaching on the island while enhancing the island's ecological features. Projects in order of priority and as budget allows, should include:

- Swim-only buffer zones marked by swimming buoys
- Mooring buoys that would allow a limited number of motorized vehicles for short time mooring, while reducing impacts to seagrass
- Enhance habitat for native flora and fauna including osprey nesting

Additionally, we recommend the City of Miami Beach work with Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management to leverage additional funding from the Biscayne Bay Trust Fund and to reduce the cost and complexity of permitting and approvals where needed. Motion passed by acclamation.

c. Updates

i. G.O. Bond Oversight Committee – No update.

ii. **Climate Action Plan** – Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, presented the item and provided an update on the timeline, with the release of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) coinciding with the Aspen Ideas: Climate event. Ms. Berthoumieux gave an overview of the scenario used to determine the interim target and prioritized actions. Ms. Pineda explained that AECOM previously provided two other scenarios which were strongly based on the federal plan and FPL's 10-year plan but the scenario being utilized for the CAP is more flexible and focused on local action. Ms. Pineda stated that there will be opportunities for community outreach with a public workshop and a public comment period.

iii. **Urban Forestry Master Plan** – Omar Leon, Urban Forester, provided an update on the items that will be heard in Commission committees which include an amendment to Chapter 46 (Tree Preservation Ordinance) and Chapter 126 (landscape requirements for new development). He explained that the proposed amendment overlays address maintaining palms and the addition of canopy tree requirements in certain neighborhoods. Mr. Leon explained that the items will be heard in the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee regarding the financial impact of proposed canopy tree transition. Margarita Kruffy, Chair, asked if other neighborhoods follow this lead of historical palm protections and how these amendments would affect the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Mr. Leon stated that most of the city's urban forest is on private property so it would not have an impact given that the overlay mostly deals with streetscapes. He added that it could potentially impact walking/biking spaces by limiting shade but explained that since 2018, the number of canopy trees and palm trees has increased providing overall positive impacts toward the palm to canopy trees ratio target. Mr. Gibaldi asked how the desired ratio was established. Mr. Leon explained that maintenance, removal, and replacement costs for palms were evaluated with respect to the cost for replacement with a canopy tree.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

4. Next Meeting

a. November 18, 2021